

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 007059
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:JTHYDEN

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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O 111150Z JAN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITEHOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 007059

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SEOUL DATED JANUARY 11, 1978
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T SEOUL 0218

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE ASKS DEPARTMENT TO NEGOTIATE
CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS TO TONGSUN PARK

REF: STATE 5848

1. I HAVE REVIEWED THE PLANS FOR DEALING WITH THE HOUSE
ETHICS COMMITTEE REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT TO NEGOTIATE FOR
CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS TO TONGSUN PARK AND FIND THEM, WITH
SOME MODIFICATION, TO BE EXCELLENT. I HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED
THE MATTER WITH DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL CIVILETTI.

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2. THERE ARE THREE AREAS IN WHICH I THINK PLANS SHOULD BE
MODIFIED: FIRST, AFTER TALING IT OVER WITH CIVILETTI IT SEEMS
TO ME THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO KEEP OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
ETHICS COMMITTEE IN A SINGLE CHANNEL TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE
CONFUSION. THEREFORE, I WOULD STRONGRLY URGE THAT DEPARTMENT
LEGAL ADVISER HANSELL NOT TELEPHONE JAWORSKI IN RESPONSE TO
JAWORSKI'S LETTER TO HANSELL, AS SUGGESTED PARA 4, REFTTEL.

IF HANSELL FEELS THAT HE IS UNDER OBLIGATION TO RESPOND TO JAWORSKI, I BELIEVE THAT A BRIEF LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF JAWORSKI'S LETTER, WHICH ENCLOSES A COPY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO CHAIRMAN FLYNT, WOULD BE THE BETTER COURSE. THE LETTER COULD ALSO OFFER TO MEET WITH BOTH THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE COUNSEL TOGETHER AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

3. THE TIME FRAME FOR DELIVERY OF THE RESPONSE TO FLYNT/SPENCE LETTERS PROPOSED IN PARA. 3 SEEMS FINE. IN THE INITIAL RESPONSE, HOWEVER, I WOULD URGE THAT WE SEEK TO CLARIFY SUCH SUBJECTS AS TIMING AND LOCATION FOR POSSIBLE ACCESS TO TONGSUN PARK RATHER THAN BEGIN IMMEDIATELY WITH A DISCUSSION OF SCOPE OF THE INTERROGATION AS SUGGESTED. CLEARLY, WE WILL NEED TO ADDRESS THE SCOPE OF THE INTERROGATION AT SOME POINT, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE THE INITIAL POINT OF ADDRESS.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMMITTEE, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DOWNPLAY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INTERROGATION IN SEOUL NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 13. CLEARLY, THE FACT THAT THIS INTERROGATION IS PROCEEDING IS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE UNHAPPINESS. RATHER, WE SHOULD SUGGEST THAT FOLLOWING INTERROGATION IN SEOUL AND A REVIEW OF THE RESULTS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE, WE WILL BE
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IN A BETTER POSITION TO MORE FULLY DEFINE THE COMMITTEE'S REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOP THE BEST POSSIBLE NEGOTIATING STANCE. SUCH AN APPROACH DOES NOT, IN MY VIEW, FORCE A COMMITTEE RESPONSE REGARDING THE VALIDITY OF THE CURRENT INTERROGATION.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MODIFICATION, I BELIEVE THAT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ETHICS COMMITTEE WE MUST POINT OUT THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. MOST PARTICULARLY, THAT THE ROKG DOES NOT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO PUBLIC TONGUE LASHING. IN THAT REGARD, THEREFORE, IF IT IS HOPED TO CONCLUDE A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION, SOME DEGREE OF RESTRAINT ON PUBLIC DECLARATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED. I REALIZE THIS IS A DIFFICULT SUBJECT TO HANDLE BUT BELIEVE IF WE ARE TO NEGOTIATE IT MUST BE ADDRESSED.

6. REGARDING PARA. 6 REFTTEL, I TOO BELIEVE THAT THE ROKG IS RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTING THE INEVITABILITY OF SOME FORM OF DIRECT CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS TO TONGSUN PARK. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, HOPEFUL THAT THIS CAN BE DELAYED AND STAGED SO AS TO OCCUR WHEN PARK VISITS THE US,

WITHOUT A DIRECT ROKG ROLE. FOLLOWING THIS VIEW,
THEREFORE, I WOULD URGE THAT WE PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN
OUR EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF ON THE ETHICS
COMMITTEE AND DEVOTE OUR GREATER EFFORT TO ASSURING
THAT THE NEEDS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE, IN THE FINAL
ANALYSIS, FULLY SATISFIED.
SNEIDER UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LITIGATION, BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, COMMITTEES, CAT-B, NEGOTIATIONS, LOWER HOUSE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE007059
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O.JTHYDEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: N780001-0299
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780176/aaaacvvm.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0d8ceae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 5848
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3793197
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040427
Subject: HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE ASKS DEPARTMENT TO NEGOTIATE CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS TO TONGSUN PARK
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US, (TONGSUN PARK)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0d8ceae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014